

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-7, 10-20, and 22-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 22-23 are independent. Claims 8-9 and 21 are canceled without prejudice to and/or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. By this amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended and claims 22-23 are newly added. Support for the claim amendments is as follows:

Claim	Support for Claim Amendments/Newly Added Claims
1	Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 9, as well claim 8 from which claim 9 depends.
22	Newly added claim 22 includes the limitations of claim 1, as well as the limitations of objected to claim 15.
23	Newly added claim 23 includes the limitations of claim 1, as well as the limitations of objected to claims 15 and 16.

Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohtsu et al. (USP 5,476,310) ("Ohtsu").

Claims 9 and 15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Pending Claims

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohtsu.

Claim 1 is amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 9, and claim 8 from which claim 9 depends.

Claim 22 is newly added and includes all of the limitations of objected to claim 15, which directly depended from claim 1.

Claim 23 is newly added and includes all of the limitations of objected to claims 15 and 16. Claim 16 directly depended from claim 15 (which directly depended from claim 1).

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least these reasons, claims 1, 22, and 23, as well as any of their dependent claims, are patentable over the cited references.

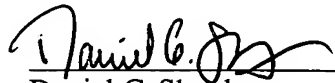
IV. Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4420 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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